• COLORADO RIVER •

AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Vol. X March 31, 1943 No. 3

New Motion Picture In Natural Color Is Saga of A People Who Saw Tomorrow

In April the District will release for public showings a new motion picture in natural color. The film is entitled, They Saw Tomorrow.

It presents factually and dramatically the heroic story of a people in Southern California who had the vision to see the need for a more abundant and dependable supply of the one necessity of life which this Southwest country does not freely provide. It tells how they went about to solve their most difficult problem by the conquest of a wild and stubborn desert land and the building of the longest and largest domestic water supply line in all America.

It tells how their Herculean task was finished just in time to supply the vital needs of a strategic center of war production and military operations in a country suddenly plunged into a struggle for its very life.

It is a saga of the Southwest.

As the scenes of this motion picture record of a people who saw tomorrow unfold upon the screen, the voice of the narrator tells us the story. A few excerpts from the film's narration will give us a brief outline of the recital:

"This is the record of a people living in a group of cities in Southwestern America. . . . They faced the same task that has stood before all men who have sought to live in the golden warmth of a desert sun. . . . It has been so since the world began.

"It was so in the ancient empires bordering the Mediterranean Sea. . . . It was so in Babylon—watered by wide canals from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. . . . It was so in Egypt—made fruitful only by the flood waters of the River Nile. . . . It was so in Carthage—where the palace fountains of merchant kings were fed by man-made water ways from the distant hills.

"But there were times when men failed to plan and build for the future. When this came to pass, their lands were stricken and made desolate by lingering years of drought. . . . Mighty empires crumbled and fell and were buried by the remorseless sands of the desert. . . . The tomb of forgotten despots who had sought to rule the world.

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THEY SAW TOMORROW is a 16 mm. natural color motion picture. It requires less than 30 minutes to screen. It is to be made available for showings before representative business, service, patriotic, social, civic, educational and fraternal organizations. A limited number of prints will be released for use in schools and universities.

Symbols of two Ancient Empires which faced the same great problem that was met and solved by the far-sighted people of the cities comprising The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. It was the vital problem of providing an adequate water supply in a semiarid land. (At left) The Sphinx and Pyramids of Egypt. (At right) The Mighty Lion of Babylon which stood forth outside the gates of that rich and powerful city five thousand years ago.

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Story of Aqueduct

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"But as the world moved on and on—down through the passing centuries—there came to be a multitude of people with an abiding faith in the eternal brotherhood of man. . . . Men who were determined to hold aloft the standards of liberty and justice throughout the world. . . . And so it came to be that in these modern days there were soldiers for freedom advancing over the buried ruins of Carthage—one of the forgotten empires—in the land that now has come to be known as Tunisia. . . . These were men from a new world—a new era. They were from the great western continent of North America. They had been trained for desert warfare in a portion of that land that is called Southern California.

"Many of these men came from homes in this same Southern California. In this favored region their people had settled and prospered. They lived in a land of life and growth and floral beauty. . . . But nonetheless they had soon come to know that they actually were living in a semiarid country where the dry and ever menacing desert always is waiting just beyond the borders of carefully irrigated groves—and just beyond the borders of prosperous cities.

"More and ever more water was needed to supply the basic needs of these rapidly growing communities. Very little of this water came directly from rainfall. For the most part, it was water that slowly, through the passing centuries, had accumulated in deep underground basins. . . . But as the years rolled by, these age-old water reserves were being drawn off—and exhausted. . . . There came a time that called for vision, courage—and action.

"The vision came through the eyes of William Mulholland. He looked out three hundred miles across the sun-blistered reaches of a desert country—

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Steady Progress Being Made On Aqueduct Distribution Line To Serve South Coast Area

Under the direction of R. B. Diemer, Chief Operation and Maintenance Engineer for the District, work on the Orange County distribution line extension to serve the Coastal Municipal Water District went steadily forward during March.

The District's present Orange County feeder, which supplies Fullerton, Anaheim and Santa Ana, now terminates at Santa Ana. Work now under way includes the extension of this line for a distance of about 12.5 miles to a point near Corona Del Mar, where a connection will be made with the water main now serving the Laguna Beach and South Laguna Beach areas. Along the way provision will be made for connections to serve the Costa Mesa area that is included within the Coastal Municipal Water District, which was annexed to the Metropolitan Water District in the summer of 1942.

About eleven miles of the line extension will consist of 36-inch diameter steel pipe acquired by the District from Pasadena. It is a part of the water main that formerly delivered water to Pasadena from the Morris Reservoir. At the month's end approximately four miles of this steel line had been removed. A good share of this came from the tunnel section located immediately west of Morris Dam. At the same time work was in progress on the excavation of pipe sections on that portion of the line between the tunnels and Monrovia.

The contracting firm on the job is the American Pipe and Construction Company. As the pipe is excavated it is removed to the contractor's plant in Southgate where it is to be reconditioned and the ends squared and shaped for new field joints. First step in the reconditioning of the pipe is the removal of the old asphalt coating. Next, the pipe will be sand blasted and coated inside and out with coal-tar enamel. Finally, there is to be applied to the exterior of the pipe a mortar coating three-fourths of an inch thick.

In addition to the reconditioned pipe sections, about 1.7 miles of the line extension will consist of precast concrete pipe.

There is included in the new line extension a 5,000,000 gallon capacity reservoir to be constructed on the line about a mile and a half north of Corona Del Mar.

Working under the direction of Chief O & M Engineer Diemer on the distribution line extension job is Henry J. (Hank) Mills. He is the District field engineer on the various phases of the work being performed by the contractor. General Superintendent for the American Pipe and Construction Company is F. F. Jenkins, assisted by Job Superintendent Thomas Wilcox.

The new line is scheduled to be completed and ready to make water deliveries by October of this year.

- DIRECTORY -

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• MONTHLY REPORT •

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a brief summary of some of the activities of the District as set forth in the monthly report of General Manager Julian Hinds, filed with the Board of Directors in March, 1943, covering work done in February.

Construction

Parker Power Plant—The U. S. Bureau of Reclamation operated three units of the plant in parallel with the District power system and continued installation of the fourth unit, completing the placing of concrete incasement this month.

Ground Wires on 230 kv Transmission Line—At the end of the month, brackets for the ground wires had been installed on 183 miles and installation of the grounding system was completed on approximately 10 miles of the transmission line.

Coastal Municipal Water District Line—The contractor, American Pipe and Construction Company, has removed from tunnels 3,099 feet of pipe, and from trench 2,414 feet, and more than one-half mile of pipe has been hauled to the Southgate plant for reconditioning. Bids were opened on February 9, 1943, for furnishing 7500 barrels, plus or minus 20 per cent, of portland cement. The Board awarded a contract on February 26 to Southwestern Portland Cement Company, low bidder, for the required cement.

Operation and Maintenance

General—Energy supplied to Basic Magnesium, Inc. increased in February to a maximum of 100,500 kw. The maximum daily consumption of energy was 2,390,513 kilowatthours. On February 12 the City of Los Angeles started construction of a connection between the Palos Verdes feeder and a pipe line to serve new war industries.

Design — For the Orange County feeder extension, design drawings were made of centrifugally-cast concrete pipe to be installed upstream from the terminal reservoir. A cost estimate and sketch were furnished the U. S. Engineer Office for a proposed connection to the Orange County feeder to serve the State Narcotic Hospital at Spadra.

Parker Dam—The water surface elevation in Lake Havasu was gradually raised from 445.9 on January 31 to 448.8 on February 28. The average daily discharge at Parker Dam was 13,495 c.f.s.

Pumping Plants—Routine maintenance work was performed at all plants. A thorough inspection was made of the transmission line to check the condition of all suspension insulator connections. No Colorado River water was pumped during the month.

Distribution System—At Lake Mathews routine maintenance of the reservoir and appurtenant works and patrol of the main aqueduct east and upper feeder west of the lake were carried on. Elevation of the water surface on February 28 was 1,342.86 and useful storage amounted to 77,191 acre feet. At the Softening Plant the rate of flow averaged 13.6 c.f.s. or 9,400,000 gallons per day, and the hardness of the influent water was reduced from 389 to 101 p.p.m. Regular maintenance and patrol of the distribution pipe lines and reservoirs was performed. Water was delivered from the Santa Monica feeder to Burbank during a test for rate of delivery to the city's 905 level reservoir. Water also was delivered throughout the month to Beverly Hills, Compton, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles at its Palos Verdes connection, and Santa Monica.

Hydrographic—Studies were continued of conditions along the Colorado River in the Needles area and sessions of the California Joint Legislature Committee held at Needles were attended. Water surface elevation in Lake Mead dropped 3.36 feet during the month to 1,179.60 feet. Average discharge at Boulder Dam in February was 14,868 c.f.s.

Employment—In February, 4 classified positions were filled, one by transfer and 3 by new employment. There were also recorded 24 terminations, one military leave, 3 changes of status, 22 employment contracts and 99 interviews.

Right of Way—Acquisition of right of way for the Orange County feeder extension continued. At the citrus groves picking of lemons and navel oranges was in progress. There were negotiated 4 options, one reverse lease and one reverse rental.

Purchasing—Total expenditures covered by 150 purchase orders issued during the month amounted to approximately $6,500.00. Freight shipments consisted of 6 carloads of cable and steel to the ground wire job and 28 cars of sodium chloride and one of soda ash to the softening plant. Cash salvage sales for the month amounted to $2,720.75. The appraised value of salvage stock on hand at the end of the month was $339,131.94.

Story of Aqueduct

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to the Colorado River. Here was the water so desperately needed by the people in these Southern California cities.

"But the cities in need of the water from the distant Colorado River were scattered and separated one from the other. To bring a portion of the river across the trackless miles of intervening desert and mountain country was a task too big and costly for any one of the smaller communities to venture alone. . . . They sought for a method under the law to join forces in a common effort. . . . But at that time the law offered no solution to their great problem.

"The answer came through the legal genius of William Burgess Mathews. He conceived the broad outlines of a new and basic law. . . . It was adopted by the California State Legislature, and authorized the organization of The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

"But there still remained the unparalleled problem of planning and building a giant water way from the Colorado River to the cities more than 300 miles away.

"On Christmas Day of 1932, the first mechanized battalions of a peace time army moved out on the desert to tackle the big job. For more than eight years 38,000 men toiled under a scorching desert sun. . . . And in the summer of 1941 the biggest job of its kind ever attempted in the United States had been completed.

"Then came December 7, 1941! A day which will live in infamy. Southern California faced across the waters of the Pacific to a dozen bloody battlefronts. Suddenly this southwest corner of the United States had become a strategic center of defense and offense. It was a logical center for the mass production of airplanes and ships, and for the production of iron and steel and rubber and aluminum. . . .

"But how was Southern California prepared to meet its Destiny? Was there water enough? Anxious inquiries poured in from Washington and from eastern industrial centers. Was there water enough?

"Promptly to each of these inquiries went back the answer: 'In the cities served by the Colorado River Aqueduct there is water in plenty for all industrial and domestic and military needs.'"

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE

Master Charles Ely Brandt
He's the image of his dad.

Recently elected or reelected to serve on the Board of Directors and the Supervisory and Credit committees of the M.W.D. Federal Credit Union are the following District men and women: Board of Directors, Alan Patten, President, Ethel Lockhart, Vice President, Dolores Sholz, Clerk, C. G. Olson, Treasurer, and Marian Crews; Supervisory Committee, Hortense Miller, E. B. Rider and A. W. McKinlay; Credit Committee, Helen Scherer, Dorothy Goddard and C. C. Elder.

The wives of District employees stationed at Iron Mountain, Eagle Mountain and Hayfield pumping plants have joined with their distant desert neighbors in organizing the Chuckawalla Valley Branch, Riverside County Chapter of the American Red Cross. They have established an Emergency Closet and Canteen at Desert Center and have been active in sewing and knitting useful articles for the armed forces as well as in contributing generously to the Red Cross War Fund.

Recently elected to serve on the Governing Board group that represents Intake and Gene pumping plants in the M.W.D. Employees Association were F. B. Peavy, Dispatcher, and M. T. Schilling, Station Machinist. Reelected to serve with the group were J. A. Reider, General Foreman, and A. E. Geisler, Assistant Engineer. Those elected to serve in the other three groups from the field and office were announced in the February issue of the NEWS.

Here they are, ladies and gentlemen! Two of America's finest. On your right, we present little Miss Sharon Elaine Odell, four months of age. Her mother is Mrs. Thelma Jones Odell, who from 1933 to June of last year was Secretary to the Assistant to the General Manager. Her father is Kenny Odell, now on sea duty with the U. S. Navy. On your left, we present Master Charles Ely Brandt, five months of age and tipping the scales at just under 20 pounds. His father is Captain Charles Brandt of the U. S. Army, now in service somewhere in Australia. Before he was granted military leave from the District in 1940, he was in charge of Mails and Files. The young man's mother is the former Miss Eleanor Ely, who for some time was employed in the District organization.

And now its Ensign Josiah F. Marshall and Ensign Robert W. Lamson. A few years ago these two young men were hustling about the District headquarters as members of Charlie Brandt's staff in Mails and Files. Ensign Marshall recently completed a special course of training at Dartmouth College, and in April he goes to Princeton for additional studies. At Dartmouth one of his classmates was Ensign Lamson.

Ensign Joe Marshall, formerly a member of the District organization.

Little Miss Sharon Elaine Odell
Her mother has good reason to be proud.

Miriam Taylor, the District's Assistant Controller, has joined the Marines. She has been accepted as a member of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve and is scheduled to be called up for active service early in April. Her first engagement as a soldier of the sea will be a two months period of indoctrination at either Smith College or Mount Holyoke. Thereafter, it is to be expected, she will be addressed as Lieutenant Taylor. Miss Taylor has been in the District organization since May, 1930. She was first employed to perform secretarial duties in the office of the Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors. From 1931 to 1942 she was Secretary to Controller J. M. Luney. In April of 1942 she was appointed by the Board as Assistant Controller.

Under the supervision of Ruth Thiers, an organized solicitation of contributions from District employees to the Red Cross War Fund was launched in March. Miss Thiers is Secretary to General Counsel James H. Howard. She has been an active volunteer worker for the Red Cross for a number of years and is well equipped to advise her fellow employees in the District concerning the vitally important work that will be performed by their contributions.

District employees stationed between Banning and Intake have been unusually eloquent in exclaiming over the enchanting beauty of the desert flora. "Bring along your A gas books, you office stiffs, and enjoy a trip over the desert spaces," they say, with a taunting leer.